NBC NEWS - SPECIAL REPORT - BIDEN ELECTED PRESIDENT (11- 7-2020)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM)

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From Saturday November 7th, 2020 NBC NEWS live coverage of the projection of former Vice President Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States.

- Coverage runs from 11:24 A.M E.T - 12:30 P.M E.T

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savannah guthrie in new york the moment the entire country has been waiting for after a very close race nbc news now projects that joe biden has won the keystone state pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes and that means we can now project that former vice president joe biden has been elected president of the united states he is president-elect joseph robinette biden at 77 years old uh chuck will turn to you this map is uh is a real interesting one not necessarily the path that anyone thought would have unfolded but here we are here we are uh look we got just enough vote in in order to uh call pennsylvania even if it may slip into a recount we think there's just the mathematically uh uh nearly impossible uh for the for the uh the order of finish to change in pennsylvania and when you look at it in many ways um joe biden won with a the same uh with a somewhat traditional map in the midwest he rebuilt the blue wall um and narrowly but he did it he added two sort of expansion states it looks like potentially when all said and done with arizona and georgia but the fact is he did it without it and it proved that four years ago the biggest important lesson from this election is that 2016 was not an outlier this is essentially the 2016 election with the gary johnson vote going to joe biden and here we are all right andrea i'm thinking of the 32-year quest for the presidency of this man his resilience in the face of failed attempts in the past a very slow start stumbling out of the gate losing the primaries and caucuses reclaiming it on super tuesday and taking a centrist message which will now challenge him his ability to reach across the aisle will be challenged on the left within the democratic party

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the democratic party but the empathy the fact that he was so policy directed which comes from his whole career during kovid which i think was the biggest story of this closing part of the campaign his response to the pandemic and to the racial inequality the protests after george floyd really spelled that appeal to suburban women and others in broadening that appeal that hillary clinton simply could not reach in the 2016 map and that spelled victory in a sharp contrast with appealing for unity for calm as he has in the last 48 hours and casey hunt is here uh concession is normally the opening to transition are we going to see that i i think we're all going to be watching to see what republicans do here and they have a real challenge in trying to manage a president who has been ruled it seems by his emotions and who has fed into the chaos so i would expect some republicans to focus on letting what chuck mentioned there's still going to be a process that plays out in the states obviously republicans have talked about legal challenges i'm going to watch to see how long and how far republicans are going to be willing to entertain that clearly current president trump has a lot of support there were a lot of americans who voted for him here but i'm not sure that there's going to be sustained support for that and you know just to pick up on what andrea was saying as i as as i was i've been watching all of this and you think about what got joe biden into this race and and how you know everyone in washington has looked at this president he has said repeatedly that the events in charlottesville

and the president's unwillingness to be very clear on matters of race are what got him into this in the beginning that he was something of a reluctant candidate that his son beau should have been the one who was running here i mean he has been trying as andrea said to find his way into this office for decades uh and that the relationships that he did build through the roles that he had in the senate i think are going to drive us going you know there's a mandate there is a mandate here and there's

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there is a mandate here and there's gonna be a fight about what it is but i'll tell you what the american people's mandate is heal the nation that's joe biden's mandate that's the message that was sent heal the nations why you ran and you know what that is why he won and in those closing days joe biden would awfully often say this is a fight for the soul of the nation and the nation has spoken if you're just tuning in nbc news projects that joe biden will be the 46th president of the united states let's go to kristen walker she's at biden headquarters in wilmington delaware kristen good morning savannah and lester good morning to both of you on this historic day the biden campaign has been elated since yesterday when joe biden pulled ahead in pennsylvania and now there is cause for real celebration we are out to the campaign for reaction none yet but i can tell you that they have been planning for the vice president to address the nation they have been confident that this was the news that is coming and so what will his message be it speaks to some of those key points that andrea and casey just talked about biden knows that his first and biggest challenge is going to be to try to speak to this entire nation to all of those people who voted for president trump to try to unify the country and so i am told that's going to be the theme of his message when he does in fact address the nation that could happen as early as this evening he will talk about the fact that he sees himself as a president of the entire nation and not just blue states the people who voted for him and that's really been a theme that has governed much of his campaign it's something we've heard quite a lot about in these closing days when you look at pennsylvania the state that delivered him this victory where did he spend most of his time campaigning in the closing days of this campaign it was pennsylvania 14 stops in all more than any other state why because he knew that this could be the state that could be make or break for him and so it was and so it is and that is why on the final day of this campaign he visited scranton

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campaign he visited scranton the place where he was born he visited philadelphia to encourage african-american voters to turn out in force they didn't in big enough numbers in 2016. and so we wait for reaction from the biden campaign on what is undoubtedly a day of celebration and he had other paths to get to that number but yes pennsylvania put him over the top we uh talk about the there's so much history in in all this kamala harris to become the first woman of color as vice president of the united states it's an historic day for that reason as well senator kamala harris becoming the first black woman to serve as vice president-elect and so we are told that when biden addresses the nation if that does in fact happen this evening or later on today she will be there with him she will also make remarks and so she will speak to the historic nature of this moment and as you all were talking about there at the desk biden really framed this campaign as a fight for the heart and soul of the nation and she certainly was a part of that messaging that this is a new moment in american history and they were hoping that would resonate let's go to andrea mitchell who of course has been covering politics andreas going back to the 80s there have been female vice presidential candidates never has there been a female vice president and if the first person of color to be elected vice president of the united states and it's so extraordinary when we think that the first woman was on the ticket in 1984 and now to see and of course having covered hillary clinton for decades as i did running for president but to see the first woman vice president and the first person of color the first woman of color as kristen was just saying it is overwhelming in a way to think of the the barriers that have been broken not only the glass ceiling but in an era of such a racial reckoning in the united states to have a person of color in the vice presidency having watched walter mondale

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walter mondale the first vice president who was really consequential in his partnership with jimmy carter depends on whether joe biden lives up to his promise to have that partnership with kamala harris that he enjoyed with barack obama there were of course tensions with obama and biden and policy disagreements along the way but it is absolutely true that they were partners in anything and they talked about being the last person in the room when decisions were made with obama and they really bonded through their biden's granddaughter and of course the president's daughter who were basketball uh teammates there were so many friends and then you know parent-teacher conferences that they did together and also you know of course through the the illness and the the death of bo biden when the president president obama reached out to the vice president and offered to pay his mortgage so he wouldn't have to lose his house paying the medical bills all of that that really is part of the character of joe biden and i think that for any tensions that might have existed during that first debate and any presidential ambitions that she clearly has as with such with the oldest elected president she is obviously the front runner for any future you know democratic leader but and that's going to be inevitable they're both politicians they're both ambitious we're not allowed to talk about not about elections i would like to certainly let's certify this one but let me just say that that the point i'm trying to make is that they are going to be full partners i believe in this i have to be i mean i would just say this it if they're not um they're going to have some governing challenges i mean it's going to be interesting you know joe biden's going to be taking office in a moment of history where we're as a country we're extraordinarily divided and we're sort of hurt pain whatever metaphor you want to come you know we need to heal the nation both figuratively and literally with covet but i i would guess that the closest corollary um we have is probably 76 jimmy carter comes in we were extraordinarily divided nation um and joe biden is almost this

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um and joe biden is almost this combination of jimmy carter and gerald ford he's got the the political um he's got the political acumen of a jerry ford who understood washington the empathy and honesty and integrity and character of a jimmy carter and so what joe biden uh and i think this is what will be interesting to watch this partnership on one hand biden comes in he's here to be a healer and he's also the inside guy kamala harris as a partner um she's there to to sort of keep the progressives and sort of um you know the the outside activists also you know in a governing partnership it's going to be interesting if it's effective that's what it'll look like if it's ineffective then we'll see the to a new generation i think inside the republican party you think of the arc of history that joe biden has seen in his political career but we are in fact moving potentially forward and he needs someone to help him do that let's find out what the trump white house is saying this morning we've got hallie jackson on duty i was just glancing at the popular vote yes nbc news has projected that joe biden has won the election but 70 million americans voted for donald trump 74 million approximately for joe biden where is the white house on this call and where is the the president right now physically savannah he is not here at the white house president trump right now as this race is being called by nbc news is at his golf course in virginia this is not the rebuke of trumpism that some of the president's critics had hoped but it is a defeat for the president and it is one that over the last 24 hours aids advisers and other sources that i've talked to have come to a realization about i believe you're looking at some video of the president the motorcade on the way to that golf course earlier today the president even as recently as within the last hour has been defiant about this elections results tweeting that he won this election he clearly has not that is not the case either with the popular vote or of course with now that 270 electoral college vote

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with now that 270 electoral college vote threshold a tweet so misleading and incorrect that twitter again slapped a warning label on it basically hiding it to prevent it from spreading further you're taking a look now at the scene that is just uh outside the white house where i am and it is people in black lives matter plaza that's what it's called here in washington it's just outside the fencing that's been put up at the park in front of the white house that crowd has been getting bigger and when the race was called there was a cheer that erupted from that plaza i can tell you that as i departed here at i don't know midnight last night they were blasting news reports of the race their folks outside in dc are listening to the returns and they have been for

the last day or so elsewhere in dc you heard cowbells you heard honking you heard cheering it's obviously a very democratic city politically leaning for people here so that is not particularly surprising i will say that for the trump campaign we have heard nothing yet i have reached out where team has reached out to contacts in the campaign for reaction here but the legal fight their perspective is that the president and we know this is going to keep on fighting until he has exhausted every possible recourse in fact as we speak up in philadelphia there's set to be a news conference with some of the president's top advisors rudy giuliani corey lewandowski pam bondi about the legal push that they're mounting in that state it looks like an uphill climb the campaign so far has presented no evidence to back up any of its claims not just to the news media but to judges who have dismissed these cases in other states like georgia and michigan this is a blow obviously for president trump it is a reality that he is going to need to face i was told at about 10 o'clock last night by a couple of folks close to the president that he understood that that he saw the writing on the wall the writing that is now on the wall this morning here on nbc news as we've called this race the question is what happens next i understand that he has no plans to concede until the recounts the canvassing the certification process has been finished in these battleground states the latest deadline for that is december 1st i believe but anybody waiting for a concession from president trump is going to be waiting quite a while longer i believe this is a president who will likely who has been inaccurately incorrectly and

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inaccurately incorrectly and misleadingly claiming that this election has been in his views stolen from him again there is no evidence of the fraud that the president is talking about no evidence of widespread fraud or systemic problems it is likely that he will continue to keep up that messaging and that narrative now will he speak with reporters will we be able to see the president the current president of the united states at some point today it is possible there is always a group of people traveling with the president it is not out of the realm of possibility that that pool that group of reporters could be called as the president makes remarks uh i am we are still working to find out what the plan is when he might come back to the white house here we do expect that obviously at some point throughout the day uh but at this moment this is a the the worst case scenario that the trump campaign had been bracing for i think people around the president's orbit knew this was coming and we're trying to prepare him for this news as well savannah yeah and casey you've been talking to your sources on the republican side of things how do you see this playing out over the next few days hallie just reported it's very unlikely we're going to get a concession call from president trump how will this go forward do you think that makes sense and i think that my sources are likely expecting that to happen but i think the challenge for republicans and and the push that we're going to see behind the scenes is to get the president to lay low for the next day to not inflame tensions further to try and focus on and in some ways it's what joe biden has been saying trust the process do the work i think they're going to say to him if your legal challenges if they show evidence if you go to court and there are legitimate questions to be raised we will support you in that we will focus on it we will talk about it but i think there is also an understanding that once it is clear that all of those avenues have been exhausted they're willing to give the president a little bit of time to prove it but it's not going to last forever and they're going to be ready to say okay we're ready to accept these results of celebrations in the streets here in new york obviously a heavily blue city uh harrisburg

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heavily blue city uh harrisburg pennsylvania i think we've got some pictures of uh supporters i think that's the white house there is what you're looking at but we've got to keep an eye just keep an eye on republican elected officials today who do congratulate um joe biden who reach out i wouldn't be surprised if mitch mcconnell harrisburg mitch mcconnell and joe biden talked today before joe biden and donald trump talked we're just showing you various scenes harrisburg pennsylvania uh trump supporters a spontaneous reaction there we've seen it outside the white house we're seeing people running into the streets in manhattan obviously a very we're all getting reports and different towns going very poor honking and things like that kristen welker right now at the biden headquarters who's got a little more uh information on their reaction kristin that's right lester we're beginning to get reaction from some top democrats one top official from the former obama biden white house uh writing to me that they are ecstatic the nightmare of four years has

come to an end i'm quoting here the healing and rebuilding of the soul of america begins another democrat reaching out to say that this underscores that they were able to rebuild the blue wall in the midwest when the story of this election is written it will undoubtedly include that fact that joe biden won back those critical midwestern states michigan wisconsin and of course in the rust belt now pennsylvania remember hillary clinton didn't carry them back in 2016 and that was to some extent what they were holding out for on that election night they kept saying to reporters the blue wall will hold the blue wall will hold well it didn't hold and she lost the election so from the perspective of democrats they have won back that territory that they so sought to defend back in 2016 the question becomes now what how does he reach out to those people in the midwest throughout the rust belt who still feel as though they have not come back from

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as though they have not come back from this recession that the country has fallen into how will he bring those jobs back that was a key part of his platform but he's always said he needs to address and fight covid before he can do that so again democrats expressing their reaction even as you report there is elation and celebration from dc i'm getting that as well from philadelphia uh and new york where you all are and the question then becomes how will uh president trump govern as lame duck president in the middle of another i mean you know one of the things in five days we've gone from an average of just under 100 000 cases we're sitting at 126 000 a day you know we might be at 200 000 before thanksgiving are we really going to have this lame duck period where we just sit back and wait for a new congress and a new president or are we going to see some i mean that cooperation i mean to me that is the most critical near-term issue which is managing the pandemic in this transit managing the pandemic and also getting covered relief i mean this is something republicans and democrats casey you know it so well have been fighting over right hoping that the election would would resolve it one way or the other but it's ironically the election just asserts that it's divided government that's absolutely right i mean we're still waiting ultimately on the outcome of the senate it's possible it could go either way but in the meantime while we there are so many americans waiting for relief republicans are going to control the senate i do think there is a significant appetite in congress to chuck's point to do something to get a big sweeping piece of legislation but the president's unpredictability is just an incredible x factor runoff's here if you're mitch mcconnell you don't want to suddenly have more gridlock in the midst of what is going to turn into this national fight for control of the senate in two months down in one state that oh by the way is moving against the republicans if you're mitch mcconnell you want to make covet relief not an issue the incentives are lined up to do something and i think also you're going to see we have been told they're going to be some

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have been told they're going to be some important cabinet changes the pentagon they the defense secretary may be fired or resigned before he can be fired that is our reporting as well as possible executive orders there's a lot on the intelligence front there's a lot that that president trump can do in the next two months how much could president uh biden president-elect biden reach across the aisle olive branch how much will the left of his party allow him to build in the interim that he has free running i want to say one other thing quickly about kamala harris she identified as a young woman of mixed background as black she went to an historically black college this is an enormously important moment for howard university and all the other historically black colleges for aka for the black sororities there is a cultural phenomenon now in the white house that we have never seen before this high profile at the highest levels of government and that is going to be felt just think of the example the role modeling for black women black girls black men and boys i've talked to dr frederick of howard university about this exactly i remember that interview when you meet the press he just this is just so important um he's it it's means so much to howard it means so much to these institutions and and this just could be such an interesting moment for these institutions to really to really thrive uh in in this generation with kamala harris as sort of this north star and there's been a lot of fear in the black community over the last uh four years and this i think provides uh some hope kamala harris's role let's go to kristen welker who of course is at biden headquarters this morning kristen we should get you in on this

conversation the question of what kind of governing agenda biden will feel he has we've you know made the observation that at the moment the election stands for joe biden being elected president and republicans gaining seats in the house and the senate in suspended animation

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and the senate in suspended animation will it end up being controlled by republicans or democrats how does that dynamic affect what joe biden wants to do and who he chooses for his cabinet for his secretary of state for his secretary of defense and so on well he certainly isn't going to be able to choose people who will be flashpoints given what our understanding of the makeup of congress and the senate will be savannah you're absolutely right about that when you think about his agenda though let's tick through some of the key things that he wants to accomplish he's talked about criminal justice reform addressing the protests and the core issues of those protesters barring chokeholds for example for police officers he's talked about building on obamacare now that gets very complicated because remember the supreme court is going to hear a case about obamacare could potentially overturn it he's talked about rebuilding obamacare this is one of the questions i asked him during the debate what do you do if it gets tossed out how do you rebuild that when your plan really focuses on starting from where we are right now so that could be a real challenge and he's gonna have to work with congress on that and then think about his climate change plan this is a two trillion dollar plan he says it's going to bring thousands of jobs it's going to add to the u.s economy he says it's a jobs plan that's how he's selling this but if you are republicans if you're concerned about running up the deficit it's going to be very hard to get them on board and then of course what we've been seeing in recent weeks on capitol hill the fact that they are stalled over coveted relief that they haven't been able to get covet relief through despite the fact that so many americans feel as though they are struggling right now economically they want their kids to get back to school he's going to have to tackle all of this now we know that he and senator harris had a briefing on the economy and on covid earlier this week he's made the point that while this race was not called he was going to get to work because he was so confident that ultimately he would be named president-elect but

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he would be named president-elect but all of these different agenda items that i lay out are very tough to get through a divided congress kristen let me jump in here because we have breaking news out of the white house we haven't heard from the president hallie what do you got well it's a fairly lengthy statement savannah chuck and lester it is about three and a half paragraphs i won't read the entire thing but i will read you some highlights which is that the president uh is is suggesting that joe biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner and that the president is alleging his media allies are trying hard to help him insisting the election is far from over this is frankly the statement that i think many of the president's critics and even some around him expected him to put out when the race was ultimately called as the direction it appeared to be heading in over the last 24 hours or so for joe biden the president is resisting the results of the election uh despite the fact that there has been no widespread evidence of fraud he is insisting that he will continue moving forward with legal challenges in the courts and he is blaming as he has often done over the last four years that he's been in office the news media for something that he simply does not like the president as we mentioned is currently on his golf course as i'm going through the rest of the statement the president insists he's not going to rest until the american people have what he describes as an honest vote count again this election process has worked exactly as expected it took a little while we knew it was going to take a little while as chuck knows we knew it was going to take a while because of all those mail-in ballots the ballots that in some states have been gone through there will be recount fights likely the trump campaign has already threatened to do a recount in wisconsin we know that's where georgia has been headed but this is president trump true to what we have seen from him since the campaign started for him back in 2015 2016 defiant even in the face of the reality that this presidential race has slipped out of his fingers it is out of his grasp he will fight to try to get it back he cannot it appears the writing is on the wall joe biden has the 270 electoral votes he needs

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needs the question now can the president actually do anything about that if he refuses to concede concession is not a legal requirement there's nothing in the constitution that says that president trump needs to deliver a formal speech calling for unity and handing the reins of power over to joe biden that is a tradition and if there's one thing we know about this president is that he has not been traditional in the past and he has bucked that at every turn i will tell you that there is a fair amount of monday morning quarterbacking going on here there is finger pointing now uh as we have seen for quite a while with the this white house finger pointing over what some critics see as a sloppy strategy people even close to the white house concerned that this legal push was a long shot from the very beginning wondering why there wasn't a more sort of forceful face and forceful figure heading that push given that that was where it seemed to be headed even you know monday tuesday last week as it looked like the race was going to be very close so the factionalism is happening here the question is what the president does next does he lay low for a couple days i would frankly be surprised to see that given the defiance of the statement now out from the trump campaign i will say too as the transition now is upon us we have i believe 74 if my math is right 75 days until inauguration day president trump is still the president and this transition uh is going to be very closely watched it is possible that the president will try to shake things up it has long been discussed long been speculated that perhaps he would fire people like his defense secretary mark esper nbc news has reported that secretary esper has prepared a letter of resignation according to three defense officials there are questions of whether the president will try to use these last two plus months in office to issue a series of executive orders for example trying to use the power that he still has on his way out the door essentially perhaps issue some pardons to people in his orbit so it could be a turbulent couple of months until the middle of january when president-elect joe biden will be sworn in just down pennsylvania avenue from where we are the statement is highly troubling well it is it is and it is also

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well it is it is and it is also completely of a piece with what he's been signaling he in august he said i will claim that there is fraud if i lose and today he is claiming that there is fraud if he loses i just want to mention that um the nbc news is not alone we are not the only news organization to come to this conclusion based on the evidence including the associated press and fox news so when the president talks about his media allies are the joe biden's media allies his media allies also have called this race let's can we just go let's show your work sure let's just explain why it is that the nbc decision desk has come to this conclusion in the and the states that are involved here and you know they're they're the irony is he says beginning monday um the lack of urgency if there really is something i don't mean that and it was issued from the golf course so i don't mean to say that that that sort of i almost think though that's an important you know if there was if there was seriousness to this a belief in this do you delay my point is is that it's clear this is political possibility in fairness if there is a wreak if he is within the threshold of a recount in one or more states he is well within his rights and there is nothing wrong with him pursuing that recount if he believes there is fraud he is well within his rights to prove it in court and that process can go and and can and can unfold but let me just remind you of something here the problem he has that that the president has in order to do this so he's going to pursue let's let's take this we got a wisconsin recount that he wants to pursue pennsylvania recount perhaps and right now we are just above the threshold it's a one-half of one percent in pennsylvania right now it's just above the threshold we actually expect joe biden's lead to continue to grow a little bit more and then as the provisionals come in it's possible that it goes back into the recount threshold inside of pennsylvania less than one half of one percent but we're talking 20 000 votes separating that's the point we were making about wisconsin the best example maybe a thousand

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the best example maybe a thousand fifteen hundred votes can you find in a recount whether um you know look at the florida recount you could argue maybe they found a thousand at the end of the day it was about a 12 or 1300 vote lead that eventually got down to 537 to find 21 000 votes in wisconsin 30 000 votes uh there

um even the 6 000 votes or 8 000 votes that they would need out of georgia in a recount there let alone what would happen in arizona so the point is when you start to look at this savannah you held up a note would this be a five-front war the point is is that that's it and by the way with also cross currents you've got to argue in one place to limit some ballots being counted in certain states because they help the president's case but then in other states he's going to want to expand the counting on that or expand provisionals particularly fairly well but for for joe biden right now he is leading in all of the relevant battleground states except for north carolina but even if pennsylvania were to somehow disappear and obviously nbc news does not believe that to be the case he still has a potential georgia nevada track not only or he has an arizona nevada track or a or i believe at this point now georgia and nevada correct i just looked at georgia and nevada even if he loses arizona georgia nevada would get him right so that's the and so he's got to somehow overtake all of those and by the way i do want to and this is an important aspect of this story let's this is the most likely now electoral vote final uh electoral vote between the two 306 232 306 232 is what we had four years ago and it sort of reinforces the point that i've been trying to make here which is the 2016 election was not an outlier this is a country that is divided along the lines we've been divided on and joe biden won because he put together hillary clinton's vote and the none of the above vote from from four years ago who decided i don't know if i won another four years of this i'm gonna go with joe biden i want to show you one the president some folks some video

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one the president some folks some video that just came in uh to our newsroom this is the upper east side of manhattan and we're hearing this story uh spontaneous applause and celebration outpouring on the streets of some of these cities which were known to be uh fans of of joe biden we saw in harrisburg pennsylvania um in trump country some trump supporters so we i think we're going to start to see as this news on a saturday morning starts to get out we're going to see these the the the evidence of the divided country we have pouring out into the street well this is the white house and by the way the cities of course have been the more blue areas so you're going to see a lot of cities in in one place and and you're going to see perhaps a lot of anger and some as we saw in harrisburg pennsylvania hillary clinton has tweeted uh memorably that the voters have spoken it's a history-making ticket and repudiation of trump and a new page for america thank you to everyone who helped make this happen onward together i think we have a joe biden statement kristen welker in wilmington what do you got savannah we're hearing from the now president-elect joe biden let me read you his statement this is just coming in i am honored and humbled by the trust the american people have placed in me and in vice president-elect harris in the face of unprecedented obstacles a record number of americans voted proving once again that democracy beats deep in the heart of america with the campaign over it's time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation it's time for america to unite and to heal we are the united states of america and there's nothing we can't do if we do it together so there you see again joe biden really stressing and calling for unity in this moment acknowledging the fact that these results in these key battleground states were close acknowledging that it is going to be up to him now to try to unify what is a deeply divided nation in terms of the reaction that we're getting from president trump i think it bears reminding people and underscoring something that you said

00:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2041s)

and underscoring something that you said savannah which is that this was not a surprise uh to the biden campaign they were prepared for this type of reaction from president trump in fact they put out a statement yesterday if i could just read that to remind people what their posture is uh as we said on july 19th the american people will decide this election and the united states government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the white house so to that point defiance from the biden campaign from president-elect joe biden who is clearly not going to be daunted by the comments of president trump in terms of those legal battles the biden campaign and the days leading up to this historic moment have called those legal challenges meritless they've called them charades and they say they have a team of lawyers ready to fight them so it is significant though that we're getting our first reaction from joe biden himself as he uh prepares to take the mantle of president-elect savannah kristen welker thank you as we look at that crowd at black lives

matter plaza in uh in washington you see near the white house and again you saw some of the images from new york that one person described it to me is very much like the saluting the medical heroes that we that was a part of the coveted uh uh response people on balconies and out of their windows uh celebrating again these are images coming from obviously two very blue uh parts of this country but a lot of passions in the streets right now let's go to michael beschloss we need a historian at a moment like this and michael take a step back will you you're the historian we're the journalists we live in the moment you live in in over the course of time how do you reflect on what has just unfolded well the first thing savannah occurs to me is this philadelphia spoke in 1787 we got a constitution in a country philadelphia spoke in 2020 and we've got a new president of the united states in a way it's really circular and that theme of healing and unity that all of you have been talking about this morning is absolutely central the founders

00:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2161s)

is absolutely central the founders always wanted us all to fight over policies they felt that was the way of having the best country because they didn't want the united states to be like england where all the policies were made by the king but at the same time they wanted us to fight over policies and over who would be a president of the united states for instance but at the end of the day they wanted compromise they wanted civility they wanted conciliation and you know gerald ford's memoirs were called a time to heal i think that's a perfect word for this moment this moment could not be more of a time to heal for the united states of america it is uh just after 12 o'clock here on the east coast if you're just joining us there's the headline at the bottom of your screen president-elect joe biden nbc is projecting uh that joe biden uh will be the next president of the united states and you see some of the reaction uh there what i just want to bring in if i can david plouffe in the conversation who was campaign manager uh for president obama and david with you i'd like to talk about the the next there's this period between now and january 20th with a defiant president trump right now explain how this is going to work transition is so key between two administrations what is lester particularly given the pandemic and all the economic challenges but i'd start by saying donald trump might not move on but the rest of the world is going to move on in a matter of days joe biden will be announcing who his various cabinet secretaries are going to be he'll be meeting when talking to members of congress in in both parties so trump to me becomes increasingly irrelevant other than the peaceful transfer of power a sitting president an incoming president working carefully on transition has always been a hallmark of our democracy so that's what concerns me it doesn't concern me the statements he's going to make or is there some legal route here for trump to undermine that we know that's not the case but we need uh you know members of his administration to work cooperatively with the incoming biden administration but listen the world's gonna look very

00:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2280s)

but listen the world's gonna look very different really in a matter of days again as he says here's who's my secretary of treasury is going to be my health secretary my attorney general uh and you know i think he'll start talking to mitch mcconnell and republicans in congress of course nancy pelosi and chuck schumer so i think that's where we are so i think we should not pay much attention in my view to the things trump's saying about the election the important thing is is he going to do anything to undermine the peaceful transfer of power in terms of working cooperatively and is it going to fire a lot more people are there going to be executive orders done to benefit you know he or his family that's what we need to be concerned about and david what tone would you advise joe biden to take vis-a-vis those uh folks who did vote for donald trump and who may be believing what he says about a fraudulent election an election that has been stolen it's one thing for for you you're a democrat you say we're not going to pay attention to that but there are millions of americans who will how should joe biden speak to them and address that well my sense savannah is you're going to have everybody from senate republicans to republican governors to even folks on fox news saying the election's over just to go back to the map chuck todd was at this is not a close election historically okay joe biden's going to win with a higher percentage of the popular vote than barack obama did in 2012 and certainly donald trump did in 16 than george w bush did in either of his elections uh and his electoral vote's going to be north of 300 in all likelihood uh so it's a significant win uh and again i think things start changing

today that intensifies tomorrow so donald trump may not be satisfied but i think joe biden is going to reach out to those voters i'm sure it's one of the first things he's going to say tonight is i'm going to be a president for all of you uh and speak to the fact that i know a lot of people voted against me i know people have concerns about the election because of what donald trump saying but this is a free and fair election and i'm going to go out there and fight with everything i have for you which is there's no one he's gonna have the toughest challenge any incoming president has had since fdr uh so he needs to rally the

00:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2401s)

since fdr uh so he needs to rally the american people as many as he can around some of his policy prescriptions and how he's gonna lead us out of this pandemic and i think to savannah i mean everything we've seen from the former vice president now president-elect underscores that he's likely to do what david was just outlining this is someone who has had a sort of north star on his campaign all the way along i mean he had so many people doubting him in the primary in the general election even his own sometimes campaign staffers behind the scenes uh wondering if whether if he was making the right set of decisions but he stayed true to that even in the face of that kind of opposition he kept saying what's happening on twitter does not represent what's happening everywhere the the american people want something uh broader than is than what's happening and he ultimately was vindicated in that and everything that we know about joe biden says that he is going to be someone he has a deep long-standing decades-long really relationship with mitch mcconnell who you know maybe the republican leader again may not be depending on those on those two runoffs but he is someone who you know when obama was president when we had president obama it was vice president joe biden who was cutting deals with members of congress and working with those relationships so i think we are about to enter a very different uh era and uh the cabinet question is still an open one i think partly because control of the senate is not determined yet so that the kinds of cabinet nominees that joe biden could get through a democratic senate might be different than the ones he could get through a republican senate but i'm not sure that joe biden really would want i i i feel like he knows who he wants in his cabinet and it may actually line up with this signature challenge andrea for joe biden going forward i mean yes he knows he's going to face republican opposition there's nothing new about that the parties are always at loggerheads but within his own party he has as casey just outlined a long history of rather centrist streaks that is not where the activism in the

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2520s)

that is not where the activism in the democratic party is right now how will he navigate that terrain well there are two pieces to that i believe the first is the transition between a hostile white house and joe biden and there are some predicates for this because when president obama came in from george w bush they were overwhelmed with how welcoming the bush white house was to them despite their policy disagreements over iraq and a host of other issues they found a road map it was an absolutely professional transition turn the page to the transition to donald trump the obama white house went about it the way they had been welcomed they planned all sorts of tabletop exercises i was at the white house one day doing an interview with susan rice she was about to go into a tabletop with the incoming mike flynn national security team on a pandemic pandemic and there was nothing planned by the incoming team they had nobody to meet with because there had been no appointments remember chris christie and the transition had been fired they had replaced chris christie with mike pence on the incoming transition they were never organized on policy it was never about policy it was always about donald trump and that has been the case so you're going to find not only the hostility but there are so many vacancies and the white house chief of staff and all of that so they're going to have problems in just the transition well there are rules they're very well laid out but they were never observed by the trump team on coming in do you have to wait until the elections are certified well they they do have transition offices that are set up even when they become nominees but now it goes into full gear so they're ready the biden team is ready but you're absolutely right savannah they're going to have to navigate aoc bernie sanders bernie sanders may want the labor cabinet position they're going to push back because

they're going to say but here's a rep when you're talking about mandates though chuck do you think there's a mandate for that no the mandate is again i would think the the results of this election say no no exactly one of my favorite exam battle

00:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=2640s)

one of my favorite exam battle semi-battleground states new hampshire and i say semi because it was one that i think the president um again so many strategic mistakes we're going to look back and say that he made new hampshire and their inability to get that back into play was one of them but new hampshire decidedly you know voted for joe biden reelected their democratic u.s senator by double digits and below the ballot decided to hand power on a local and state level to republicans the point was is that they're clearly and i go back to last the four years ago none of the above vote who couldn't they didn't like trump or clinton had decided to vote for a third party candidate that that group of voters decidedly went ahead and joe chose joe biden but they did not choose a democratic senate they did not choose men in many cases democratic house members and so that's going to be i definitely that challenge but i want to go back to something david plouffe said which is i do think another way to sort of suck the oxygen out of whatever the president might try to do in the and the agita around the election is you roll these nominees out fast exactly i think before thanksgiving you're going to have a government in waiting before thanks and that it just you know this is before the elections are certified technically but what it does is it absolutely sucks the oxygen it makes it like what are you talking about sense of inevitability and by the way we're within we're going to call other states and as more votes come in so it's not even going to be a one-state election there will come a time when world leaders start calling justin trudeau right and remember remember that that donald trump went to saudi arabia you're not to go to canada and or mexico which is the tradition to go to your neighbors as your first business the weirdest first visit ever just to make saudi arabia your first stop and joe biden remembers 1992 in little rock i was there and they didn't get the cabinet and the white house staff appointed nominated until christmas eve it was an extraordinarily bad drawn-out process he already knows what he wants and i think he's ready to roll it out as

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and i think he's ready to roll it out as you well know the transition the biden transition team is already in place i mean those meetings are already going on they've been going on absolutely and these are the people who have been part of his team part part of his universe as well as presidential candidates well by the way unlike donald trump who couldn't reach back to a previous republican administration to find people which is also the the struggle he had in his transition as you had a mainstream the establishment of that but he wouldn't let the never trumpers he vetoed them so anyway in this way putting together a government for joe biden he was in the previous democratic government himself so these are already veterans and look he's going to bring in new people because i do think you need to have a new generation and it isn't just about appearance sake to have a new generation i think it needs to be real i think you know no more of these you know these glass ceilings need to be gotten rid of on all of these cabinet posts so there's no doubt that we're going to see a lot of that stuff shattered um but i think it it is it is um it is also going to be about finding that balance and being responsive to the electorate as a whole i do think that there is going to be a significant focus on chuck i think you were suggesting that the diversity of joe biden's cabinet i think that is one thing that democrats on capitol hill but also across the country they're looking to see themselves represented you probably have a woman defense secretary michelle florinoy and possibly she worked in the first half of the obama section possibly the first woman treasury secretary the first woman right um a defense secretary you know sort of these last sort of for some reason relics if you will and just that stuff and by the way you shatter that stuff and at the same time you can still strike your ideological balance and that's what he's going to have to do it's not going to be easy and he's going to have to strike this balance but he does have a in the same way barack obama was able to strike that balance when he came in because he had a crisis immediately and it was sort of like look you may have your petty you may have your issue

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have your petty you may have your issue that you really want come on you've got to appoint this person the deputy under secretary of acts you're like you know we don't have time for that right now this time it's a pandemic we don't have time for the little fights and i think that also will benefit um joe biden's ability to get the first cabinet that he wants put it that way we're showing you images that are coming into our newsroom from around the country from lafayette park in washington dc in harrisburg and pennsylvania those are some trump supporters and we'll continue to monitor those images let's go to kristen walker she's at biden headquarters getting reaction and we mentioned kristin already that justin trudeau the prime minister of canada has has uh has reached out to joe biden the president-elect what else are you hearing let me read you what we're hearing from justin trudeau and then let's talk about the broader context of how the world is reacting savannah justin trudeau writes congratulations joe biden and kamala harris our two countries are close friends partners and allies we share a relationship that's unique on the world stage i'm really looking forward to working together and building on that with both of you look president trump was someone who ran on an america first foreign policy and that is how he governed and so some of america's traditional relationships with its foreign allies have been strained throughout the trump administration something that he would acknowledge and felt quite proud of frankly he pulled out of the paris climate agreement he pulled out of the iran nuclear deal these are things that joe biden has said he wants to rejoin he said he wants to negotiate a better iran nuclear deal but just to give you a sense and think about nato president trump had a number of nato summits which were quite tense at times you'll recall that one moment where you had several world leaders who were talking about the president behind his back mocking him that was caught on camera and that was something that from the perspective of president trump he saw as a badge of honor he would argue look uh he forced those nato member countries to

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he forced those nato member countries to meet their commitments when it comes to foreign defense spending but on the other hand his critics would argue that some of america's most traditional relationships have been strained and that that has been a challenge for america's strength on the world stage and at the same time embracing some of america's foes or those with whom america has had strained relationships with like vladimir putin like kim jong-un now biden has said if you want to take north korea as an example that he would not meet with kim jong-un without preconditions uh president trump has met with kim jong-un three times and still no nuclear deal still no agreement for nuclear disarmament on the part of north korea so i think you are going to see a very different relationship with america on the world stage than we have seen in the past four years it will be up to the historians to determine uh how that plays out but joe biden has been very clear he sees this very differently he sees america's place on the world stage very differently he does not subscribe to the america first foreign policy i also want to make one more note which is that joe biden has changed his twitter handle it now says president-elect guys all right kristen thank you let's go to hallie jackson now at the white house are you hearing any reaction from those in the president's inner circle hallie we are this morning uh this afternoon lester um and a couple of things here it has largely i will tell you been radio silence at this point i think that i get the sense people are reeling from what i think folks knew was coming but it is still the reality that they are now facing save for two things right one that inflammatory and misleading statement put out by the president this morning the other a press conferencing press conference rather happening right now as we speak actually up in philadelphia up in pennsylvania where the president's advisors are making baseless claims of fraud and continue to do so with interestingly rudy giuliani confirming now what we have been reporting for the past 24 hours that the president is not going to concede with this legal fight now ongoing i have to tell you though there are others who who get where we are right

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=3120s)

others who who get where we are right now who understand where the trump white house is one person close to the white house called this the great anti-climactic ending that folks have been seeing for several days the focus now is really shifting to people thinking about themselves their own futures with the white house official telling us that a lot of people are coming to terms with this they're starting to think through the transition where they're going to go starting in january and a senior campaign aide lets our team know too

that there is still some work to do as we've been talking about and as you've been talking about there on set the question is how does this transition look for president trump he is likely based on my experience in the last five years covering him from inauguration day in 2017 he's likely to fume he is likely to continue to push conspiracy theories about the election results uh it may be a turbulent couple of months here i will tell you too lester you know right when the the race was called by nbc news and other outlets you couldn't hear what was happening on black lives matter plaza on the park just outside of the white house where i am you can sure hear it now we have been hearing more honking more air horns more cheering it is a loud situation the president at this is this this is the scene you can see actually it's filled up and just to give you some perspective on the top of your screen you can see there's a fence and then a grassy area that's lafayette park which is just to the north of where i'm standing at the white house it has been barricaded the gates and the fencing have been put up non-scalable officials say because of the expectation that this would exactly be the scene on election night we had to wait five days for that right we took a while to get here but this is why the reinforcements have been put in place around the white house because of the expectation of potentially protests or demonstrations like the sort of celebration that we are seeing right now at some point the president's going to come back to the white house lester he's at the golf course now that's just across the potomac river in virginia he didn't take the helicopter he doesn't do that since it's such a close trip he drives through the streets in his motorcade and he will have to motorcade back through the streets of washington with this scene visible to him this is not a president who often gets glimpses of life outside the bubble

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the bubble so to speak he confronted that a couple of times recently i'm thinking most notably over at the supreme court after the death of ruth bader ginsburg when people booed he and the first lady when the two of them showed up uh after uh justice ginsburg was laid to rest in her their at the supreme court but it is going to be i think a real uh potentially jarring moment for president trump to see how the country is reacting to his loss as he continues to strike frankly this very defiant tone all right uh hallie thanks for i just want to show you a picture that we're just getting in of of kamala harris and her husband uh doug amhoff this is obviously reacting to the news so a picture we wanted to share he's glad to see the first jewish um second vice versa second gentleman okay that's right first second first second gentleman say that say that real fast for a second i was glad to see um so many washingtonians out there wearing their masks wearing masks and peaceful yeah well i mean but they're they're just gonna say the way we saw them be a gracious winner be good winners and by the way we saw the crowds in harrisburg that trump supporters also peaceful so that is what we would all hope for yeah the protest is is as american as you can get to hate each other is not and i think that's what we need to remember as these days it is interesting we we polled this to see how would supporters how would the supporters of either side handle losing and what was interesting is that among it was that it was the democratic side that had that their side lost the first emotion would they said they told our pollsters was anger on the trump side of things believe it or not his base the first emotion they said they would feel of trump loss was disappointment and the point is this you do get that sometimes which is you're more angry at something that you couldn't attain you may be more disappointed at something you've had and then lost so there is i you know i i am very hopeful and optimistic that for the most part there is going to be dayton all right let's let's talk to casey about what's happening on capitol hill

[00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=3361s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=3361s)

about what's happening on capitol hill and and in particular what republicans are saying either behind the scenes or what you're getting um from your sources about this moment this this this time before the president is willing to concede but after the race has definitively been called for joe biden this is going to be i think a tenuous and potentially a difficult period depending on how the president handles it for a lot of republicans we have not heard very much yet i've been sitting here scanning through email looking for statements coming in from republicans or tweets we have not yet heard uh very much we had a call from justin trudeau i'm looking to see if we're going to get news of a biden call with mitch mcconnell so far nothing along those lines uh so i i do think that they are going to face a reckoning with this president and how they respond to what he does in this period is going to be pretty critical we're also i'll give you a john cornyn

response republican yes the first thing that was submitted by any republican senator right after the call john cornyn on georgia democratic majority in the senate would cinch the radical agenda of the left they must be stopped on january 5th in georgia the point is that will that is the way that some elected republicans will be able to sort of um straddle the trump base who may have some anger about them and working with a biden administration and accepting the fact that that is what's coming they concentrate their efforts on the political fight they move past exactly and this is this is sort of president trump's problem here if he wants the party to rally around him to contest this the rest of the party's going to move on to say no no no we want to make sure we have divided government over here and for those folks who may not have been following every single twist in turn the presidency has been decided obviously joe biden is the president-elect in the senate we still don't know who will control the senate will it be republicans or will it be democrats and it may well hinge

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hinge on a couple of very tight senate races in georgia that are headed to runoffs and that is why we're talking about this period not only being a lame duck period for the president and a period of transition for joe biden it is also a an extended election campaign with no less than the control of the united states senate at issue down in georgia right and you know we shorthand it as control of the senate but here's what it really means it's the difference between joe biden having a mandate for calm and normalcy which it's very clear he already has and perhaps a return to the status quo and him being able to implement sweeping big policy changes and also it's going to have a huge impact on how he is able to govern whether the cabinet that he can get is the one that he wants because if mitch mcconnell is still controlling the senate remember they have gotten rid of over in recent years the the filibuster now what does that mean it means they only need 51 votes for this and so republicans would be able to block with their majority joe biden's cabinet nominees any future supreme court nominees so what democrats are looking for here is they're looking to see is mitch mcconnell going to blockade all of that because joe biden's first two years as president look very very different if republicans control the senate than if then they do if democrats are going to be able to pull out these two races in georgia so we are all going to be focused on that for the next couple of months and republicans you can already see them chuck to your point they're saying if this is a radical administration we got to put a check on on this radical left that also i think is going to be something that the biden team is thinking about they're not going to want to give any indications they're going to want to protect themselves from that accusation in the next two months and let me just say as casey you know so well joe biden lived through that first couple of years as vice president with mitch mcconnell on day one there's

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with mitch mcconnell on day one there's an anecdote very widely reported which is accurate of that meeting that they had in the capital grill and the dedication determination to block everything that the obama biden team did from day one and they were successful and we saw it most recently you know played out of course in supreme court confirmations but it was from day one everything was a struggle uh you know they know very joe biden knows very well the difference between control of this he does i will also say though that mitch mcconnell has a lot on the line here he if he does control the senate uh he is going to need to hang on to it and that may mean he's incentivized to do by the way it's a narrow majority no matter what okay and so let's not forget that and and you're going to have mitt romney lisa murkowski susan collins immediately be three people who want to work with the biden administration and get caught working with the biden administration i want to go to a presidential historian author and nbc news contributor john meacham who joins us now john we have seen changes of party and and power in the white house but this is this is a change of tone it's a change of temperament uh not only literally but but but certainly in in perception uh have we have we been down a road like this quite like this before i think this election will ultimately rank with 1860 and 1864 where lincoln was elected and re-elected it's certainly like 1932 when the tone of the country changed like this from the dower herbert hoover to the jaunty and confident franklin roosevelt this is a moment not unlike 1960 when president kennedy brought in a new generation with by the way a much smaller majority than a

president biden will will now have character is destiny and it's both the character of the president and the character of all of us and in many ways the presidency is a tension between being a maker of our character and a mirror of it and what i think a lot of us are hoping

01:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s0grT-FDbM&t=3721s)

and what i think a lot of us are hoping today is that biden's victory is a mirror of at least a 51 win for what lincoln called our better angels versus our worst instincts and that's what history is it's a push and a pull and i think that in many ways uh for a lot of the reasons that you all are talking about joe biden may be the perfect man for this moment because i've got springer spaniels who are more radical than joe biden uh that's just that's just not not who he is and so uh it's not going to be this socialist swerve and i know we're going to be divided i know the partisanship is going to be sulfurous but it can't be as sulfurous as it has been and in i believe ultimately uh you know benjamin franklin left the constitutional convention in philadelphia well important woman said is there uh loser franklin whatever you give dr franklin what have you given us a monarchy or a republic and he said a republic madam if you can keep it and i think we kept it with this election i'm just thinking about uh twitter you know we've had for four years a president that communicates primarily through twitter how will it be with joe biden not that way i will just say normal normal he won't fire his secretary of state or defense on twitter let me ask you john because you not only are a historian but i know you're a man of deep faith this is a moment where a nation needs healing and how do you think joe biden sets about that most important work so important you know the bible says to everything there is a season you know time to reap the time to sow a time to tear down a time to build and a time to heal and healing is not something that just comes out of the blue right you can't just say oh i'm going to heal and i think this is why biden's

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and i think this is why biden's character is particularly apropos here and and fitting because healing begins with a recognition of the other person's position of of why the wounds are here why what what what is it that's been off in our national life in our place in the global world in our hopes for the future and our fears and anxieties about it and biden gets that right this is not a a blue state uh president i know it feels that way sometimes but this is a guy from scranton uh he labor unions it means a lot to him that the folks he grew up with still get him and he wants to get them and so i think if we can get to more of a conversation than a constant machinery of conflict i think that's where some healing can begin john meacham that work begins today thank you again nbc news projects that joe biden is now president-elect of the united states kamala harris is vice president-elect as they pass the 270 electoral vote threshold this has been a moment of democracy in action more people have voted this year than in a generation even during a pandemic even at a moment of great division in this country democracy is still with us and we are watching its fruits as we speak we will come back on the air as events warrant for now for everyone here at nbc news thank you for being with us thank you for sharing this moment with us and we will see you soon [Music] you

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